

To: Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]
Cc: Peterson, Mary[Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Tue 1/7/2014 9:13:53 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 1/7/13

OPA Daily Digest for 1/7/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo.) – 1/7/14. Requests information about the new ammonia standards for private sewer systems. Due: 1/9/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Ann Wagner (Mo.) – 1/3/14. Requests a West Lake Landfill update. Due: 1/10/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State and Local Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Biodiesel Magazine – Ron Kofrba – 1/6/14: Questions regarding biodiesel and the Renewable Fuels Standard. Referred to EPA Press Office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Agribusiness Radio Network (Des Moines) - Questions regarding biodiesel and the Renewable Fuels Standard. Referred to EPA Press Office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis – Craig Cheatham – 1/7/14: Questions about radioactive snow. Referred to Julia Valentine at headquarters, per instructions. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Lisa Zigman - 1/7/14: Questions about radioactive snow. Referred to Julia Valentine at headquarters, per instructions. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Biodiesel Magazine - Gov. Branstad to address Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit – 1/7/14 - The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association announced on Jan. 6 that Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds will address the 8th Annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit and Trade Show on Jan. 28 at The Meadows Conference Center in Altoona, Iowa. <http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/9503/gov-branstad-to-address-iowa-renewable-fuels-summit>

Salon - Oil company knew all along that it was transporting highly explosive chemicals - 1/6/14 - Recent deadly oil train explosions weren't as shocking to the industry as they were to everyone else. http://www.salon.com/2014/01/06/oil_company_knew_all_along_that_it_was_transporting_highly_explosive_chemicals/

Perryville Republic Monitor - Perryville faces more federal regulations - 1/6/14 - The City of Perryville is again faced with accommodating federal regulations, this time by upping the standards of the city's wastewater that filters into streams so a healthy population of fresh-water species can thrive. http://www.perryvillenews.com/archive/article_a2b74c0c-770a-11e3-876f-001a4bcf6878.html

Des Moines Register - Veterans' ad backs fuels mandate - 1/6/14 - A national veterans group today launches a new TV ad in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., supporting the federal mandate for the amount of renewable fuels that must be blended into the U.S. fuel supply. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140107/BUSINESS01/301070053/Veterans-ad-backs-fuels-mandate>

KTRS Radio/YouTube (St. Louis) - Bridgeton Held Hostage by EPA – 1/7/14 - State Representative Bill Otto joins The McGraw on 550 AM to discuss the Bridgeton Landfill. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMuA4LIVdhY&feature=c4-overview&list=UU2PI_U7fBVPILS4DVKafBcw

InfoWars (blog) - Has Fukushima's Radioactive Wave Already Hit California? - 1/6/14 - Predictions that Fukushima's radioactive ocean plume would hit the west coast of the U.S. sometime in 2014 may have already come to pass, with a new video showing Geiger counter readings of background radiation at a beach in San Francisco over five times the safe level. <http://www.infowars.com/has-fukushimas-radioactive-wave-already-hit-california/>

Youtube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcQLxT49ZP0>

CBS News (San Francisco) - Video Sparks Japan Radiation Fears At Bay Area Beach - 1/6/14 - Health officials are investigating radiation levels along the San Mateo County coast after a video surfaced online showing Geiger counter readings five times higher than normal at a Pacifica Beach.
<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2014/01/06/video-sparks-fukushima-radiation-fears-at-bay-area-beach/>

Infowars (blog) - Missouri Snow Found to Contain Radiation DOUBLE Normal Amount - 1/6/14 - Readings taken from snow blanketing St. Louis, Missouri contains double the normal radiation amount, once again stoking concerns that the ongoing Fukushima crisis is now firmly impacting areas of America.
<http://www.infowars.com/missouri-snow-found-to-contain-radiation-double-normal-amount/>

YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85BTQZ0moSA>

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - St. Louis man says radiation found in snow double normal amount (10:33 a.m.) - 1/7/14 - A south St. Louis man who has been measuring radioactivity levels for years says levels jump substantially when it snows in the area. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/St-Louis-man-radiation-snow-239088901.html>

Riverfront Times - Radioactive Snow? South St. Louis Man Busts Out Geiger Counter, Gets Worrying Results - 1/6/14 - Michael Janitch has something he wants you to see. The south St. Louis man has been measuring radioactivity levels on his own in his back yard, and when it snows, he says, levels jump up dramatically.
http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2014/01/radioactive_snow_michael_janitch.php

Deep Sea News - Is the sea floor littered with dead animals due to radiation? No. - 1/4/14 - Recently we at Deep-Sea News have tried to combat misinformation about the presence of high levels of Fukushima radiation and its impact on marine organisms on the west coast of the United States.
<http://deepseanews.com/2014/01/is-the-sea-floor-littered-with-dead-animals-due-to-radiation-no/>

LakeExpo (Missouri) - LOWA seeks grant to stop erosion under toll bridge - 1/6/14 - Approval of a federal grant could mean the end of erosion along the shoreline under the Lake of the Ozarks Community (toll) Bridge. http://lakeexpo.com/news/lake_news/article_d1afdc4-76ee-11e3-bbc1-0019bb2963f4.html

Washington Post - Editorial: Clean energy should do without special tax breaks - 1/6/14 - ONE OF the oldest federal policies to combat climate change just expired. Good riddance. The best policy, meanwhile, remains a simple, transparent tax on carbon emissions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/clean-energy-should-make-do-without-special-tax-breaks/2014/01/06/70ce73d6-74c7-11e3-8b3f-b1666705ca3b_story.html

Kansas City Star - Coal-burning power plants at issue in Independence - 1/7/13 - An Independence citizens group wants the city's electric utility to consider retiring its two older, coal-burning power plants.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/01/07/4733621/coal-burning-power-plants-at-issue.html>

Midwest Energy News - In North Dakota, oil train explosion a 'wake-up call' - 1/7/14 - The North Dakota disaster marked the third high-profile oil train explosion in the past six months and has reignited a debate over the relative safety of rail and pipeline transport. Federal officials and industry groups point out that the overwhelming majority of crude-by-rail shipments reach their destination safely.
<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/01/07/in-north-dakota-oil-train-explosion-a-wake-up-call/>

Wall Street Journal - The Future of Coal: Despite Gas Boom, Coal Isn't Dead - 1/6/14 - more than a half-dozen U.S. coal-mining companies went under, beset by new environmental rules and competition from low-cost natural gas. But coal isn't going away.
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303332904579228160256043626>

Greenwire - White House urged EPA restraint on 2014 RFS targets - 1/6/14 - U.S. EPA modified its proposed 2014 renewable fuel standard rule last year after the White House raised concerns about production targets being too high and based on unreliable analyses, according to documents from interagency reviews of the draft proposal. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059992426>

Christian County Headliner (Mo.) - EPA: Protect your family's health by testing home for radon gas - 1/6/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is highlighting radon testing and mitigation as a simple and affordable step to significantly reduce the risk for lung cancer.
http://ccheadliner.com/n2christiancounty/epa-protect-your-family-s-health-by-testing-home-for/article_278f1420-779f-11e3-abc1-0019bb2963f4.html

Inquisitr - Clean Water Act Deemed EPA Power Grab By Opponents - A series of recently proposed Environmental Protection Agency laws are highly controversial and have sparked concerns about the infringement of property rights for homeowners and businesses. <http://www.inquisitr.com/1085161/clean-water-act-deemed-epa-power-grab-by-opponents/>

Politix - Guest Commentary: EPA Regulations Would Put Coal Out Of Business - 1/7/14 - We should be focused on keeping electricity costs low and ensuring reliable energy sources to help rebuild our economy and create jobs, not pursuing new onerous regulations that will lead to job loss, higher energy rates, and a less competitive manufacturing sector in the United States.
<http://politix.topix.com/news/9693-epa-regulations-would-put-coal-out-of-business>

The Daily Climate - Climate coverage soars in 2013, spurred by energy, weather - 1/7/14 - Reporting on climate change by world media leapt 30 percent above 2012's effort as more reporters tied energy and environmental issues to a rise in greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2014/01/2013-climate-change-reporting>

Houston Business Journal (Texas) - Most Americans don't care about fracking, survey finds - 1/6/14 - Fracking seems like a hot topic, especially in Texas and Houston, but many Americans aren't quite sure what it is, says a recent survey conducted by researchers for the journal Energy Policy. http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/morning_call/2014/01/most-americans-dont-care-about.html

EcoWatch - Newly Discovered Compounds Hundreds of Times More Toxic Than Known Carcinogens - 1/6/14 - Researchers at Oregon State University have discovered novel compounds produced by certain types of chemical reactions—such as those found in vehicle exhaust or grilling meat—that are hundreds of times more mutagenic than their parent compounds which are known carcinogens. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/01/06/new-compounds-more-toxic-than-known-carcinogens/>

Environmental Leader - Dealing With Green Cleaning Complacency - 1/7/14 - A big concern among many professional cleaning experts is that facility managers and cleaning professionals will become complacent about green cleaning and green cleaning practices, believing they have learned and now know all there is to learn. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/01/07/dealing-with-green-cleaning-complacency/>

ThinkProgress - Everything You Wanted To Know About The 'Polar Vortex' - 1/6/14 - Our recent dangerous cold weather begs the question—if climate change is real, then how did it get so cold? <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/01/06/3122491/cold-polar-vortex/>

Aljazeera America - Cold weather snap fuels misinformation over climate change - 1/7/14 - The record cold snap, which comes after snow blanketed much of the northeastern United States last week, has led to confusion surrounding how weather relates to global warming. <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/5/cold-weather-snapbringsconfusionoverclimatechange.html>

TIME - Climate Change Might Just Be Driving the Historic Cold Snap - 1/6/14 - Climate change skeptics are pointing to the record cold weather as evidence that the globe isn't warming. But it could be that melting Arctic ice is making sudden cold snaps more likely—not less <http://science.time.com/2014/01/06/climate-change-driving-cold-weather/>

The Hill (blog) - Agencies considering major chemical plant safety overhaul - 1/6/14 - An

interagency panel created to weigh new chemical safety regulations in response to last April's deadly explosion in Texas is considering a major overhaul of the way volatile substances are handled and stored, a new federal document shows. <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/194511-agencies-signal-major-chemical-plant-safety-overhaul>

New York Times - Nuclear Fuel Storage Remains Safe, Panel Members Say - 1/6/14 - Most members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission indicated on Monday that they considered it safe to continue storing most spent nuclear fuel in pools. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/07/us/nuclear-fuel-storage-remains-safe-panel-members-say.html>

Inside Climate - Exxon Gets Extension for Pipeline Repair Plan, Key Questions Still Unanswered - 1/7/14 - After nine months, there's still no discussion of what actually caused the Pegasus pipeline to split apart and spill oil across an Ark. community. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140107/exxon-gets-extension-pipeline-repair-plan-key-questions-still-unanswered>

Clean Air Watch (blog) - Guest Post: EPA Must Do More to Fix Health Menace Posed by Wood Heaters - 1/6/14 - Clean Air Watch recently hailed a proposal by the US EPA to move ahead with long-delayed plans to require lower-polluting residential wood heating devices. Our comments weren't meant to condone past EPA inaction on this topic, merely to encourage the agency to get off the dime and deal with this problem going forward. <http://www.cleanairwatch.org/2014/01/guest-post-epa-must-do-more-to-fix.html>

Domestic Fuel - Ethanol's Story (video) - 1/2/14 - The Missouri Corn Growers Association has produced a video that tells "the greatest story never told" – Quiet Revolution: The Ethanol Story. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/01/02/ethanols-story/>

Domestic Fuel - Texas Town to Get Biodiesel Plant - 1/7/14 - A 9-million-gallon-a-year biodiesel plant will soon be coming to Temple, Texas. Thomas Biodiesel LLC will build the the \$30 million refinery that will employ 30 full-time workers. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/01/07/texas-town-to-get-biodiesel-plant/>

Greenwire - Task force outlines options for 'unified federal approach' to oversight - 1/6/14 - The federal task force assigned to update U.S. chemical security policies in the wake of last spring's deadly explosion at a Texas fertilizer plant released policy options yesterday aimed at framing the regulatory debate. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/01/06/stories/1059992445>

Chicago Tribune - Editorial: Editorial: Dump the ethanol mandate - 1/6/14 - The law has succeeded in pumping up profits for corn-ethanol producers and their suppliers, but it has failed to serve the public interest. Let's be done with it. Get the government out of the business of mixing your gas. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-ethanol-mandate-edit-0106->

Bloomberg Businessweek - Congress Wakes Up to the Bad News About Biofuel - 1/6/14 - Senators Feinstein and Coburn want to go further and completely abandon the corn ethanol mandate. That not only would be good for American consumers, but good for the global environment and poor people worldwide. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-01-06/u-dot-s-dot-ethanol-mandate-would-be-eliminated-if-bipartisan-legislation-passes>

BNA - Future of Tax Incentives for Renewables, Other Energy Programs Remains Unclear - 1/6/14 - Congress is in no rush to extend the production tax credit for renewable energy and 15 other energy tax incentives that expired at the end of 2013, and the path forward remains unclear, analysts told Bloomberg BNA. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39613251&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4v4c4h5&split=0

BNA - Schumer Calls for DOT-Mandated Phaseout Or Retrofit of Tank Cars That Carry Crude Oil - 1/6/14 - Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) called on the U.S. Department of Transportation to require the phaseout or retrofit of DOT-111 rail tank cars that are used to transport crude oil and other hazardous liquids. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39613249&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4v4a6y6&split=0

BNA - Peer Reviewers Urge EPA to Overhaul Draft Assessment of Antimony Trioxide - 1/6/14 - Peer reviewers urge EPA's chemicals office to overhaul its draft assessment of the ecological risks of antimony trioxide. The EPA expects to revise the assessment and post it in about four months. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39613247&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4v3y3d1&split=0

BNA - Chemical Safety Working Group Issues List of Policy Options, Seeks Feedback - 1/6/14 - A federal working group tasked with improving chemical safety and security in the wake of the April 2013 explosion at a fertilizer distributor in West, Texas, has released a list of policy options as a "starting point" for more focused feedback from industry and environmental groups. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39613245&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4v3u1y5&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Says Synthetic Turf Safety Assurance 'Outdated' - 1/6/14 - EPA has labeled as "outdated" its 2009 public statement that downplayed the risks of exposure to tire rubber compounds in synthetic turf fields and playgrounds. <http://insideepa.com/201401062457313/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-says-synthetic-turf-safety-assurance-outdated/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - Sierra Club's EAB Suit Marks Early Fight Over GHG Limits For Gas Utilities - 1/6/14 - The Sierra Club is waging an early fight over the stringency of greenhouse gas (GHG) permits for advanced natural gas plants in an Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) challenge that faults an EPA

permit for a Texas gas plant as too weak. <http://insideepa.com/201401062457315/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/sierra-clubs-eab-suit-marks-early-fight-over-ghg-limits-for-gas-utilities/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA To Formally Propose Revised Climate NSPS For New Power Plants - 1/7/14 -
After a long delay, EPA will formally publish its re-proposed climate new source performance standard (NSPS) for new power plants in the Jan. 8 Federal Register, starting a 60-day public comment period on the plan to limit greenhouse gases (GHGs) at new coal- and natural gas-fired facilities.
<http://insideepa.com/201401072457420/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-to-formally-propose-revised-climate-nsps-for-new-power-plants/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

1/7-8/14 – Joint Region 7/Region 8 Agriculture Meeting, Regional Office, Damon Frizzell, 7560

1/9/14 – National Tribal Operations Committee, Regional Office, (Karl to participate via VTC), Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

***1/15/14** - 2013 CFC Awards Breakfast, Kansas City, Mo., Julia Cacho, 7071

***1/17/14** - Meeting with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Sexton, Kansas City, Mo, Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

1/16/14 – COOP Drill, Kansas City, Mo., Chris Taylor, 7736

1/17/14 – Meet and greet with new HUD Regional Director, Jennifer Tidwell, Regional Office, Kerry Herndon, 7286

1/16/13 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Training Event, Kansas City, Kan., Greg Davis

2/5/13 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

***2/11/13** – Agribusiness Showcase Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, Kris Lancaster, 7557

2/20/13 – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

DRA:

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1/16/14 – COOP Drill, Kansas City, Mo., Chris Taylor, 7736

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RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

***1/8/14** – Big Muddy Speaker Series, “Nutrients in Our Waters: Our Next Water Quality Challenge,”
Kansas City, Contact: John Dunn, 7594